

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, IN, US, PK, AF, CH, IR, BG, XO

SUBJECT: BILATERAL BETWEEN SECRETARY AND CHAVAN OCTOBER 7

1. SUMMARY: SHORT SECOND BILATERAL BETWEEN SECRETARY AND CHAVAN FOLLOWING JOINT COMMISSION MINUTE SIGNING CEREMONY OCTOBER 7 FOCUSED MAINLY ON INDIAN CONCERNS ABOUT CHINA AND BANGLADESH. INDO-IRANIAN AND PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS WERE DISCUSSED. AT END OF MEETING CHAVAN MADE A PASSING REFERENCE TO THE INDIAN OCEAN. END SUMMARY.

2. CHAVAN SAID THAT CHINESE VIEWS TOWARD PEACE IN ASIA

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WERE MATTER OF CONCERN TO INDIANS. THE SECRETARY SAID HE

WOULD TRY TO GET CLEARER PICTURE OF HOW CHINESE VIEWED SOUTH ASIA. CHAVAN REITERATED INDIAN CONCERNS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN BANGLADESH. RADICAL GROUPS WERE ALREADY ACTIVE THERE AND IF THE PAKISTANIS AND CHINESE BEGAN MEDDLING, THIS COULD CREATE A NEW REGIONAL PROBLEM WHICH NEEDED ASSESSING. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT IN THE PAST THE CHINESE HAD BEEN DOWN ON BANGLADESH, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE U.S. FAVORED GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND INDIA.

2. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUERY, CHAVAN SAID THE

INDIANS HAD NO FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE RECENT COUP IN DACCA. HE ALSO AGREED THAT THE PROBLEM IN BANGLADESH FOR INDIA WAS A POTENTIAL ONE AND THAT AT PRESENT, RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT WERE GOOD.

4. ON IRAN, CHAVAN SAID THAT EFFORTS TOWARD ENLARGING CO-OPERATION WERE PROCEEDING. THERE WAS GOOD PROGRESS ON A NUMBER OF PROJECTS FOR LONG-TERM COOPERATION. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WE WERE ENCOURAGING IRAN IN THIS DIRECTION.

5. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION ABOUT PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS, CHAVAN SAID THAT THE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE WAS STILL CREATING PROBLEMS. THE AFGHANS CLAIMED THE PAKS WERE TRYING TO STIR UP TROUBLE THROUGH SUBVERSION. THE INDIANS, ACCORDING TO CHAVAN, WERE ADVISING PATIENCE AND MODERATION ON THE AFGHANS. KEWAL SINGH ADDED THAT THE INDIANS HAVE URGED THE AFGHANS TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND TO CONTINUE THEIR DIALOGUE WITH THE PAKISTANIS.

6. AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, AFTER THE SECRETARY AND CHAVAN EXCHANGED EXPRESSIONS OF SATISFACTION ABOUT THE VISIT, CHAVAN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE BRIEF MENTION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN SO THAT HE COULD SAY HE HAD DONE SO WHEN HE GOT BACK HOME. CHAVAN DID NOT ELABORATE INDIAN CONCERNS. KISSINGER

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